

CLAIMS:

1. An image taking device for taking an image of an object by focusing reflected light from the object on a light  
5 receiving portion, comprising:

a measuring portion for measuring a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

an exposure control portion for controlling exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image in  
10 accordance with the measurement result of the measuring portion.

2. An image taking device for taking an image of an object by focusing reflected light from the object on a light receiving portion that converts the light into an electric signal, comprising:

15 a measuring portion for measuring a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

a gain control portion for controlling an output gain of the electric signal in accordance with the measurement result of the measuring portion.

20 3. The image taking device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a posture determining portion for determining whether or not the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to an axis along a shooting direction of the image taking device; and

25 an image taking control portion for controlling so as to taking an image of the object if it is determined by the posture determining portion that the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to an axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device, wherein

30 the measuring portion measures distances between the

image taking device and at least two points in the subject surface of the object as the distance, and

the posture determining portion determines whether or not the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to the axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device in accordance with the measurement results of the measuring portion for the points.

4. The image taking device according to claim 3, further comprising a guiding portion for guiding so that the subject surface becomes perpendicular to the axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device by producing different signs between the case where it is determined that the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to the axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device and the case where it is determined that the subject surface of the object is not perpendicular to the same.

5. The image taking device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a still determining portion for determining whether or not the object is still in accordance with the measurement result of the measuring portion that is obtained at an interval of a predetermined time; and

an image taking control portion for controlling so as to take an image of the object if it is determined that the object is still by the still determining portion.

6. The image taking device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a background storage portion for storing a background image without the object; and

an extracting portion for extracting an image that

includes only the object by comparing the background image with an image obtained by taking an image of the object, wherein

the image taking control portion controls so as to take an image when the distance is not measured by the  
5 measuring portion for obtaining the background image.

7. An image taking device for taking an image of a blood vessel pattern of a body, comprising:

a lighting portion for irradiating infrared rays to the body;

10 a light receiving portion for receiving reflected light of the infrared rays from the body;

a measuring portion for measuring a distance between the body and the image taking device;

an exposure control portion for controlling so that  
15 exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image becomes longer as the distance measured by the measuring portion is longer.

8. A method for taking an image of an object by using an image taking device that focuses reflected light from  
20 the object on a light receiving portion, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

controlling exposure time of the light receiving  
25 portion upon taking an image in accordance with the measurement result.

9. A computer program for controlling an image taking device including a light receiving portion for receiving reflected light from an object and a distance measuring sensor,  
30 the computer program makes a computer execute the processes

comprising:

a process for making the distance measuring sensor measure a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

- 5 a process for controlling exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image in accordance with the measurement result.